

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABIDJA 06635 171250Z

46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 AID-20 IO-14 EUR-25

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /170 W

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R 170913Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9880

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 6635

EO11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IV, IS, EAID

SUBJECT: ISRAELI INTEREST IN RETURNING TO IVORY COAST

1. MR. S. AMIR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, CAME TO ABIDJAN FOR 14TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TO MAKE SOME CONTACTS WITH GOIC. HE REQUESTED OPPORTUNITY TALK WITH ME, WHICH WE DID ON AUGUST 16. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HEAD OF ISRAELI INTERESTS SECTION IN BELGIAN EMBASSY, M. GABAY.

2. AFTER BRIEF CONVERSATION ON CYPRUS AND ON S.I.D. CONFERENCE, AMIR ASKED "MY PERSONAL VIEWS" ON WHETHER ISRAEL SHOULD RESUME TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO IVORY COAST. HE NOTED THAT SOME CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT BY ISRAELIS HAS CONTINUED HERE DESPITE BREAK IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS (HOTEL IVOIRE, AFRICAN RIVIERA, SOLEL BONEH).

3. I COUNTERED BY ASKING HIM WHETHER ISRAEL WOULD WISH AT SOME FUTURE TIME TO RESUME DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH IVORY COAST. HE REPLIED THAT HE WAS SURE IVORY COAST WOULD BE ONE OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES ISRAEL WOULD LIKE TO HAVE FUTURE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH, ALTHOUGH HE SUSPECTED IT WOULD TAKE A MAJOR STEP FORWARD IN MIDDLE EAST BEFORE THAT WOULD OCCUR.

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PAGE 02 ABIDJA 06635 171250Z

4. I SAID I WAS SURE GOIC WANTED TO RESUME ISRAELI TECHNICAL ASSIST-

ANCE AND EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW THAT, IF GOI'S OBJECTIVE WAS EVEN-TUAL RESUMPTION OF DIPLO RELATIONS HERE, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO RESUME SOME TECHNICAL AID, IF SO REQUESTED BY GOIC. AMIR SAID HE ALREADY KNEW GOIC WANTS AT LEAST TWO TECHNICIANS TO RETURN TO "SERVICE CIVIQUE", THE SCHEME WHEREBY THE ARMY TRAINS PEASANT FARMERS IN BASIC AGRICULTURE.

5. I ALSO SAID WE HAD HEARD THAT PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY WAS TALKING ABOUT TURNING IVORIAN ARMY INTO A "SWISS- OR ISRAELI-TYPE" ARMY. AMIR SAID HE THOUGHT, PARTICULARLY AFTER OVERCOMMITMENT IN UGANDA, GOI WOULD BE VERY LEERY OF INVOLVEMENT IN MILITARY ASSISTANCE HERE AGAIN.
SMITH

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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